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MLN Matters Number: MM3350

Related CR Release Date: July 9, 2004

Related CR Transmittal #: 226

Effective Date: October 1, 2004

Implementation Date: October 4, 2004

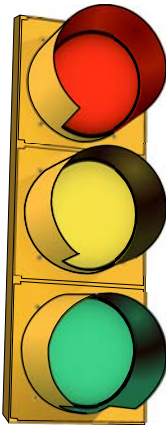
October 2004 Quarterly Update of Home Health Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Codes Used For Home Health Consolidated Billing Enforcement

Note: This article was revised to contain Web addresses that conform to the new CMS web site and to show they are now MLN Matters articles. All other information remains the same.

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, practitioners, and suppliers billing Medicare carriers for services

Provider Action Needed



STOP – Impact to You

The HCPCS code **G0329** is being added to Home Health (HH) consolidated billing enforcement.

CAUTION – What You Need to Know

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) periodically updates the lists of HCPCS codes subject to the consolidated billing provision of the Home Health Prospective Payment System (HH PPS). This article reflects the October 2004 update.

GO – What You Need to Do

Affected providers should be aware that **G0329** will not be separately payable for beneficiaries in a Home Health episode as of October 1, 2004.

Background

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 required consolidated billing of all HH services while a beneficiary is under a HH plan of care authorized by a physician. As a result, billing for all such items and services is to be made to a single HHA overseeing that plan. This HHA is known as the primary agency for Home Health Prospective Payment System (HH PPS) for billing purposes.

Medicare periodically publishes Routine Update Notifications which contain updated lists of non-routine supply and therapy codes that must be included in HH consolidated billing. The lists are always updated

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annually, effective January 1, as a result of changes in HCPCS codes which Medicare also publishes annually. The lists may also be updated as frequently as quarterly if required by the creation of new HCPCS codes mid-year.

In this update, G0329, Electromagnetic Tx for Ulcers, is being added to enforcement of HH consolidated billing to reflect a mid-year update to the HCPCS lists. Claims for this code for services on or after October 1, 2004, will be subject to this enforcement.

Additional Information

This recurring update notification provides the quarterly HH consolidated billing update effective October 1, 2004. Quarterly updates were not needed for April or July 2004. This is the only quarterly update for calendar year 2004. The next changes to the HH consolidated billing code list will come with the annual update for calendar year 2005.

The full descriptor for G0329 is as follows:

Code	Description of Code
G0329	Electromagnetic Tx for Ulcers - Electromagnetic therapy to one or more areas for chronic stage III and stage IV pressure ulcers, arterial ulcers, diabetic ulcers, and venous stasis ulcers not demonstrating measurable signs of healing after 30 days of conventional care as part of a therapy plan of care.

There is a home health consolidated billing master code list available on the CMS Web site. You may access this list by going to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HomeHealthPPS/#billing> on the CMS web site.

The official instruction issued to your carrier regarding this change may be found by going to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/Downloads/R226CP.pdf> on the CMS web site.

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